

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for improving body weight uniformity in a target group of animals, the method comprising the step of administering to said target group of animals an anti-phospholipase A₂ (anti-PLA₂) antibody in an amount sufficient to improve body weight uniformity.

2-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is administered by a method selected from injection and oral delivery.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is administered by an injection method selected from subcutaneous injection, intraperitoneal injection, intramuscular injection, and intravenous injection.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is mixed with a feed or food.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the animals are selected from avians and mammals.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the avians are selected from chickens, turkeys, ducks, pheasants, geese and quail.

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the mammals are selected from swine animals, bovine animals, ovine animals and caprine animals.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of administering the antibody comprises the step of feeding the animals an egg preparation that comprises an anti-PLA₂ antibody.

13-24. (canceled)

25. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the target group of animals is a group of chickens and the agent is administered by oral delivery.

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of observing an improvement in body weight uniformity.

28. (canceled)

29. (new) A method for improving body weight uniformity in a target group of animals, the method comprising the step of administering orally to said target group of animals along with diet an egg yolk powder containing anti-phospholipase A₂ (anti-PLA₂) antibodies in an amount sufficient to improve body weight uniformity wherein the ratio of the egg yolk powder to the diet by weight is from 0.6 g/kg to 2.4 g/kg.

30. (new) A method for improving body weight uniformity in a target group of animals, the method comprising the step of administering to said target group of animals an anti-phospholipase A₂ (anti-PLA₂) antibody in an amount sufficient to improve body weight uniformity by at least 0.5 as measured by a decrease in the coefficient of variation for body weights of the group of animals.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, the coefficient of variation is decreased by at least 0.8.

32. (new) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is administered by a method selected from injection and oral delivery.

33. (new) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is administered by an injection method selected from subcutaneous injection, intraperitoneal injection, intramuscular injection, and intravenous injection.

34. (new) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the anti-PLA₂ antibody is mixed with a feed or food.

35. (new) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the animals are selected from avians and mammals.

36. (new) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the avians are selected from chickens, turkeys, ducks, pheasants, geese and quail.

37. (new) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the mammals are selected from swine animals, bovine animals, ovine animals and caprine animals.

38. (new) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the step of administering the antibody comprises the step of feeding the animals an egg preparation that comprises an anti-PLA₂ antibody.

39. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the target group of animals is a group of chickens and the agent is administered by oral delivery.

40. (new) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of observing an improvement in body weight uniformity.